The Central Issue price of wheat and rice has also been reduced from 15th July, 2000 as follows:—

(Rs. per qtl)

Commodity	BPL	APL
1, Wheat	415	830
2. Rice		
(i) Common	565	-
(ii) Grade" A"	565	1130

Sugar Export

1295. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of sugar during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to export/release more quota of Sugar for export this year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will lead to increase in the prices of sugar in the country as a result thereof; if, the facts in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) the details of the export of sugar during the last three financial years are given below:

ST No.	Financial Year	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs. crores)
1.	1997-98	173282	244.44
2.	1998-99 (*)	12735	17.36
3.	1999-2000	(*)7043 (P)	10.77 (P)

Source: DGCIS-Calcutta. Ministry of Commerce.

(*) As per March, 2000 Publication of DGCIS -Calcutta.

(b) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of domestically produced sugar. These exports can be carried out by the sugar mills either directly or through the exporters.

(c) The current sugar season 1999-2000 started with a carryover stock of 67.23 lakh tonnes of sugar. The production of sugar during the current season is likely to be about 180 lakh tonnes. Thus, the total availability of sugar in the country would be to the tune of 247.23 lakh tonnes as against the estimated consumption of 150.84 lakh tonnes of the season.

As regards the prices of sugar in the open market, it is mentioned that the Government have been following the policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through the judicious releases of monthly freesale quotas. The government can always release additional freesale quota as and when the situation so warrants. In view of the sufficient availability of sugar in the country, export of sugar is not likely to adversely affect the domestic prices.

Corruption Cases Against Officials of Super Bazar

1296. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:.

(a) whether Government are considering to close down the chains of Super Bazar in Delhi;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) what is the alternative proposed in this regards;

(d) who are the officials against whom corruption cases are under investigation by the CBI; and

(e) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Central Bureau of Investigation is conducting inquiry/ investigation of cases against Shri S.S. Dhuri, former Chairman of Super Bazar and others. The names of officials involved in corruption cases being investigated by CBI are not yet known as the investigations are still in progress.

Modernisation of Storage System

1297. SHRI BJ. PANDA:Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen and modernise the storage system in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made on the system existing at present and the need and scope for creating adequate and modern storage